

ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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Memorandum

To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD
From: Transportation Subcommittee Acting Chair Tim Trabold
Re: May & June 2002 meetings
Date: June 28, 2002

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Transportation Subcommittee met May 17 and June 14, 2002 at Christino's at the Amherst Marriott. Present for the May meeting were subcommittee members Morse, Burmaster, Ferraro, Meckler (proxy), Schroeder, and Wendel, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein. Present for the June meeting were subcommittee members Trabold (interim for Hal Morse), Meckler (proxy), and Wendel, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein and additional representatives of the NFTA and GBNRTC.

Shoreline Bike Trails

Elena Vertino from GBNRTC presented the subcommittee with an update on the bi-county shoreline bike trail project. Segments have been prioritized for development, and several segments are completed. The main concerns right now are parts of the Lewiston and Route 5 Lackawanna portions, as well as a portion of the Riverwalk on Niagara Street. Some segments such as a portion in Evans are highly prioritized on this year's application for transportation enhancement funding. The GBNRTC is working on putting the "spine" of the route in first, and then moving on to branch segments. The ultimate goal is one continuous, themed route.

Niagara Falls Airport

William Vanacek of the NFTA talked to the group about the Niagara Falls Airport, and asserted "finding a niche is the key." The airport is open and operational, and some charters (though not many) do use it. Some areas that make sense to pursue are cargo and long haul charter operations. The NFTA is developing an RFP for a cargo operator. They are also reaching out to scheduled carriers. Maintenance had been mentioned as well, but limited hangar space is a problem.

The NFTA is also in the process of hiring a dedicated business and operations manager for the Niagara Falls Airport after a nationwide search, and is working with the military to renew their joint use agreement. If a

developer wants to ship produce from the airport, there is a possible tie in to the quick cool project that still needs to be done for Niagara County.

Other Topics

Other topics discussed included picking priority projects for development out of the GBNRTC long range plan, the CSX resolutions recommended by the ENRP, infrastructure and transportation issues tied to casino development in Niagara Falls and Buffalo, an international fast ferry project that is interested in Youngstown, and the Ireland Chamber of Commerce choosing south Buffalo for an office.